

2. Setting up of a Steering Committee at the State Level to coordinate the implementation of the Programme of PIM.

Structural Changes in the Irrigation Departments

Need to induct other disciplines such as social science and economics at appropriate places in the hierarchy of Irrigation Agency for better implementation of the Programme of PIM.

Awareness

Creating awareness among the farmers and the officials of the Union and State Governments about PIM by using various media and techniques of mass awareness by the Union Government and the State Governments. The Irrigation Agencies, Water and Land Management Institutes and other institutions concerned with the development of water resources could be used for the purpose.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation of the system should be reasonably good and in running condition. Rehabilitation need not be a precondition for transfer of the system to Water Users' Association but there should be an assurance that it would be taken up within a reasonable period. The cost of rehabilitation should be shared by the Government of India, the State Governments and the Water Users' Associations.

Legal Changes

Amendments in the State Irrigation Acts to give legal status to Water Users' Associations.

Role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Engaging NGOs for organising and mobilising the farmers. NGOs could also train the departmental staff for mobilisation and organisation of farmers.

Training

Imparting training to the officials of the Irrigation Agency, Farmers, functionaries of Water Users' Associations and NGOs. There is need to build up capacity of and for strengthening the existing training institutions such as Water and Land Management in relating to PIM.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Need for monitoring and evaluation to take corrective steps during the implementation of the Programme. Suitable mechanism for qualitative and quantitative monitoring should be evolved.

Involvement of Women

It was felt that no Programme of social transformation could succeed without the involvement of women. Therefore, women should be involved in the Programme of PIM.

Visit by British Prime Minister

1515. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during his recent visit to India, the British Prime Minister had talks on the Kashmir issue with the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the Government's response to the British Prime Minister's suggestions ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) In response to interest expressed by the British Prime Minister, Prime Minister briefed him about developments in Kashmir following the installation of the elected Government. The British Prime Minister conveyed his concern about the hostages seized by Al Faran, a concern which Prime Minister shared, while reiterating Government's determination to continue to do whatever was possible to locate and free them.

Venue of National Games

1516. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to shift the venue of the 4th National Games scheduled to be held on May 1997;

(b) if so, to which place and the reasons for shifting the venue;

(c) if not, the progress of work made so far at the scheduled venue; and

(d) the assistance extended to the host State by the Centre for organising the 4th National Games ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of Karnataka has informed that the work is progressing satisfactorily at the scheduled venues.

(d) A grant of Rs. 8.00 crores has been released to Government of Karnataka for creation and modernisation of sports infrastructure for the National Games. Besides, a sum of Rs. 1.50 crores has been released to the Sports Authority of India for further disbursement to Government of Karnataka for installation of Synthetic Hockey Field and Athletic Track at Bangalore and laying of Synthetic Surfaces for two indoor halls at Bangalore and Mysore.

[Translation]

Reservoir Scheme in Bihar

1517. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :